

Application No.: 10/698,657

Docket No.: JCLA7503-D

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action mailed March 7, 2005 objected to and rejected pending claims 6-9 and 11. Specifically, claims 6 and 11 were objected to as dependent from canceled claims (1 and 10) and the spelling of "perform" in claim 6 should be corrected. Claims 6-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being unclear, and were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuwabara (US 6,012,305).

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 6 and 11 as independent claims. Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments can overcome the objections and rejections, and respectfully request reconsideration of claims 6-9 and 11.

Objections and Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Applicants have amend the word "perform" in claim 6 as "preform", and have amended claims 6 and 11 as independent claims by incorporating the contents of canceled claims 1 and 10. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6-9 and 11 can be clarified and respectfully request withdrawal of the objections and the rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Please refer to amended claims 6 and 11, one feature of amended claims 6 and 11 is the use of the apparatus of this invention, which was originally described in canceled claims 1 and 10.

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Kuwabara fails to teach or suggest the use of such an apparatus. Kuwabara's apparatus, as illustrated in FIGs. 1-2, is very different from that of this invention in, for example, lacking *an upper room* located on the top of the reaction chamber and *a horizontally extending slit* made in "*the upper portion of the sidewall of the reaction chamber which is closest to the core deposition burner*" for introducing gases.

Since Kuwabara's apparatus is very different from that of this invention, the method of claim 6 or 11 utilizing the apparatus of this invention cannot be obtained from Kuwabara's method. Meanwhile, due to the use of the apparatus of this invention, the preform-fabricating method of this invention has particular effects, for example, the effect of reducing the probability that the stray glass particles are adhered and accumulated on the inner walls of the reaction chamber, as described in paragraph [0038].

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 6 and 11 and claims 7-9 dependent from claim 6 patentably define over the prior art.

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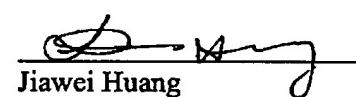
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 6-9 and 11 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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